

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 (canceled):

Claim 41 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,
- the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,
- the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,
- wherein the housing of the dispensing device allows insertion and removal of the bag in a first direction and the second connector element is displaceable in a second direction.

Claim 42 (previously presented): A system according to claim 41, wherein the housing of the dispensing device allows insertion and removal of the bag in a horizontal direction.

Claim 43 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag, the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the dispensing device comprises detector means for detecting the presence in the space in the housing of a bag or a carrier of one or more bags.

Claim 44 (previously presented): System according to claim 43, wherein the detector means are interconnected to the actuator means so that the second connector element is only displaceable towards the connected position if the presence of the bag or a carrier of one or more bags is detected.

Claim 45 (previously presented): System according to claim 44, wherein the detector means comprise a mechanical detector contacting a part selected from the group consisting of the bag, assembly of bags, or carrier.

Claim 46 (previously presented): System according to claim 44, wherein the detector means comprise a mechanical detector.

Claim 47 (previously presented): System according to claim 46, wherein the detector means are adapted to detect the presence of the base element associated with an assembly of interconnected bags.

Claim 48 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag,

the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein a latch is associated with the actuator means, said latch preventing displacement of the second connector element towards the connected position if no bag, assembly of bags or carrier is detected.

Claim 49 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag,

the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the space in the housing is adapted to receive an assembly of multiple bags, each bag being provided with an associated first connector element, and wherein a base element is provided interconnecting the first connector elements of the bags, and

wherein the dispensing device has multiple second connector elements mounted on a common support, said common support being displaceable between a connected and an unconnected position and comprising a removable support member on which the second connector elements are mounted.

Claim 50 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag,

the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the actuator means comprise rectilinear guide means for guiding the second connector element.

Claim 51 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag,

the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the actuator means comprise a slideable member that is slideable at right angles to rectilinear guide means and interconnected to the second connector element by a cam mechanism.

Claim 52 (previously presented): System according to claim 51, wherein said cam mechanism comprises an interengaging slot and follower.

Claim 53 (previously presented): System according to claim 52, wherein the slot is provided in the slideable member and the follower is mounted on a common support of the second elements.

Claim 54 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag,

the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the dispensing device is a postmix beverage dispensing device having mixing means for mixing the one or more liquids with water.

Claim 55 (previously presented): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag,

the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position,

wherein the space in the housing is adapted to receive an assembly of multiple bags, each bag being provided with an associated first connector element, and wherein a base element is provided interconnecting the first connector elements of the bags, and

wherein a seal is fitted on the base element covering the openings of the first connector elements and the seal is pierceable.

Claim 56 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag,

the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position, wherein the actuator means comprise rectilinear guide means for guiding a common support of multiple second connector elements.

Claim 57 (new): System for dispensing at least one liquid substance, comprising:

- at least one bag filled with a liquid substance which is to be dispensed,
- a dispensing device comprising a housing having a space for accommodating the bag,

the bag comprising a first connector element and the dispensing device comprising a second connector element, connectable to the first connector element allowing discharge of said substance from the bag,

the dispensing device further comprising retaining means for retaining the first connector element of each bag in a defined pre-connection position prior to interconnecting the first and second connector elements,

the first and second connector elements being displaceable relative to each other between a connected position and a disconnected position, and the dispensing device comprising actuator means associated with the first or second connector elements for displacing the first and second connector elements relative to each other between the connected and unconnected position, wherein the actuator means comprise a slideable member that is slideable at right angles to rectilinear guide means and interconnected to a common support of multiple second elements by a cam mechanism.